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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 8 and 10-31 have been canceled. In addition, new claims 32-34 have been added. Accordingly, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 9, and 32-34 will be pending.

Claim Objection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c)

The Office Action objected to claim 2 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Applicants traverse this objection. Claim 1 states that the pusher is adapted to extend, contact and continue extending without stating what causes the pusher to extend, contact and continue extending. However, claim 2 states that the pushing device "causes" the pusher to extend, contact and continue extending. Accordingly, claim 2 further limits the subject matter of claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,407,627 to Sato et al. (hereinafter "Sato"). Applicants respectfully submit that these claims have been amended and are now patentable over Sato.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite a substrate positioning system comprising, among other features, a pushing device which includes "a biasing device coupled to the pusher of the pushing device and adapted to move the pusher toward the edge of the substrate" and "a retracting device coupled to the pusher of the pushing device and adapted to counteract the biasing device so as to move the pusher away from the edge of the

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substrate." The Applicants submit that Sato does not disclose at least these features. Accordingly, claim 1, along with claims 2-7 which depend therefrom, is patentable over Sato and the Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Furthermore, the Office Action rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,374,147 to Hiroki et al. (hereinafter "Hiroki"). The Applicants respectfully submit that these claims, as amended, are patentable over Hiroki.

For example, as indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to recite a substrate positioning system comprising, among other features, a pushing device which includes "a biasing device coupled to the pusher of the pushing device and adapted to move the pusher toward the edge of the substrate" and "a retracting device coupled to the pusher of the pushing device and adapted to counteract the biasing device so as to move the pusher away from the edge of the substrate." The Applicants believe that Hiroki does not disclose any of these features. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Hiroki and the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Similarly, claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,484,252 to Mutoh (hereinafter "Mutoh"). Claim 10 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of this claim moot. With respect to claims 1-6, and 9, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims, as amended, are patentable over Mutoh.

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In particular, as detailed above, claim 1 has been amended to recite a substrate positioning system comprising, among other features, a pushing device which includes "a biasing device coupled to the pusher of the pushing device and adapted to move the pusher toward the edge of the substrate" and "a retracting device coupled to the pusher of the pushing device and adapted to counteract the biasing device so as to move the pusher away from the edge of the substrate." The Applicants respectfully submit that Mutoh does not disclose these features. As such, claim 1 is patentable over Mutoh and the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claims 2-6 and 9, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Moreover, the Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,155,773 to Ebbing et al. (hereinafter "Ebbing"). As previously mentioned, claim 10 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of this claim moot. With regards to amended claim 1 and claims 2-6 and 9, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Ebbing.

As previously outlined, claim 1 has been amended to recite a substrate positioning system comprising, among other features, a pushing device which includes "a biasing device coupled to the pusher of the pushing device and adapted to move the pusher toward the edge of the substrate" and "a retracting device coupled to the pusher of the pushing device and adapted to counteract the biasing device so as to move the pusher away from the edge of the substrate." The Applicants believe that Ebbing does not disclose these features. Consequently, claim 1 is

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patentable over *Ebbing* and the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claims 2-6 and 9, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

It is further noted that claim 8 was not rejected in the present office action. Claim 8 has been canceled herein, and its subject matter incorporated into amended claim 1. For this additional reason, the present claims are submitted as being allowable.

The Applicants have added new claims 32-34 which depend from claim 1. For the reasons noted above and the additional novel features recited in these claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32-34 are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned should any issues remain.

A separate Request for Extension of Time is transmitted herewith, with authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696 the requisite extension fee. Please charge any new claim fees to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. The Applicants do not believe any other fees are regarding

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this Amendment. If any additional fees are required,
however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

Respectfully Submitted,



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